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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 003017

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/20/2030

TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: COMMANDER USPACOM MEETS DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

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Summary: (C) India's Deputy National Security Advisor Ambassador Vijay Nambiar explains the focus of Wen Jiabao's visit to India. Nambiar considers the present a time of great opportunities in US-India relations. India is studying the US offer of military equipment and technology transfer. India hopes a pattern of high level regular exchanges between China and India become the norm. India and China have exchanged maps on Line of Actual Control(LAC), however, no common agreement has been reached on the LAC. India sets goal of 30 billion USD in trade with China by 2010. End Summary.

1. (C) On 13 April 2005, Commander USPACOM met with Deputy National Security Advisor Ambassador Vijay Nambiar at the NSA's conferencing facility at the Cabinet Secretariat Building. Nambiar was joined by 10 members of the National Security Counsel. Also attending the meeting were PACOM staff, USDATT, and DCM Blake.

2. (C) An affable Nambiar welcomed USPACOM Commander and his staff and reminisced about his time as India's Ambassador to China and his close personal relationship with then US Ambassador/Former USCINCPAC Admiral Joseph Prueher. Nambiar apologized on behalf of National Security Advisor Narayanan for Narayanan not being available to meet the Commander, explaining that Narayanan was completely tied up with the visit of China's Prime Minister Wen Jiabao. Nambiar opened by offering his views on the healthy state of Indo-US relations, reminding that India's Foreign Minister Natwar Singh was in the US, that Transportation Secretary Minetta was in India for the Open Skies Agreement, that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would visit the US in July, and that POTUS would hopefully visit India by the end of the year. According to Nambiar, this is a time of great opportunities in our relations. Indo-US cooperation during tsunami relief operations was a very valuable experience. India is now studying the US offer of military equipment and technology transfer, said Nambiar. India is focused on developments in East Asia, especially relations between China and Japan, he said. Nambiar stated that India has been engaging in maritime cooperation with Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, and asked Commander USPACOM how these nations view bilateral military relations between India and the US.

3. (C) Commander USPACOM recounted that he and Admiral Prueher go back many years and that, unfortunately, the paucity of time necessitates that perhaps a longer discussion between PACOM and India's NSC should be arranged. Commander USPACOM briefly described PACOM's area of responsibilities, talked briefly about the Japan-US relationship, and the US approach to world wide terrorism. Maritime cooperation in this region holds great opportunity, with many mutual benefits, explained Commander USPACOM.

4. (C) Nambiar underscored that the month of April continues to be a very hectic period for India's foreign policy establishment with the visits of China's Premier, Pakistan's President, and Japan's Prime Minister. On the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh took considerable responsibility for the inputs, as he himself identified the visit as of great importance, according to Nambiar. The last high level exchange, Nambiar explained, was when India's Prime Minister Vajpayee visited China June 2003. Nambiar explained that India hoped this would set a pattern of regular exchanges of leaders between both nations.

5. (C) Nambiar explained that Wen Jiabao's current visit to India is set against the backdrop of a desire to improve economic and trade relations. Back in 1998 India and China decided not to let the long standing contentious issues get in the way of improving relations in other areas such as trade and commerce. As such, these issues were agreed to be set aside and not create an impasse. According to Nambiar, China's security concerns are directed eastwards where China has major anxieties. China also is concerned with separatist issues in XingJang province and political problems in Tibet. Regarding Sino-Indian relations, Nambiar explained that the peace and tranquility agreement remains in effect, despite not having solved the boundary issues. Two major agreements were signed in 1993 and 1996 and now India and China are trying to implement these agreements. However, at present there is no common agreement on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). India and China are in the process of exchanging maps on the contentious middle-sector. On the other two sectors in

the West and East, there are still differences in perspectives on identifying the LAC. The Chinese still go back to 6th Nov 1959 as their perspective, which ties up negotiations. Nambiar explained that India hoped to move these negotiations onto the political level. China and India have agreed to have meetings between political representatives in working groups to resolve these issues. India and China have entered a new strategic relationship, said Nambiar. China has been laying emphasis on this element, namely "Strategic Relations." However, India would like to go beyond mere words to create some substantive outputs. India desires to focus on trade relations with a goal to double trade to about 20 billion USD in the next few years and to 30 billion by 2010, he said.

Comments:

1. Nambiar is gracious, intelligent, and was apologetic that his boss, Mr Narayanan was not available to meet Commander USPACOM. What was set up as a 30 minute courtesy call, turned into a potential two hour round table discussion with Nambiar, who assembled his entire NSC staff, and they were eager to engage Commander USPACOM on a variety of subjects.

2. Nambiar, recently named as Deputy National Security Adviser, is a senior member of the Indian Foreign Service. Prior to his current assignment, he was Permanent Representative to the UN, and High Commissioner in Islamabad. He was recalled from Islamabad after the December 2001 terrorist attack on Parliament, and was appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in April 2002. Nambiar's appointment as Deputy NSA was seen as a coup for the Indian Foreign Service, which was disappointed not to have a career diplomat named as NSA to succeed JN Dixit.

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